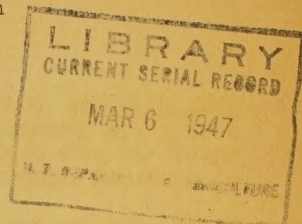


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Cap 2

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Rural Electrification Administration
Washington 25, D. C.

NEWSLETTER TOPICS

KNOW YOUR COOPERATIVE
(Fifth of a Series)



Q. BESIDES READING THEIR METERS AND MAKING OUT THEIR OWN BILLS, HOW CAN MEMBERS HELP KEEP OPERATING COSTS DOWN?

A. By spotting defects along the line and reporting them so that they can be repaired before outages occur, is one good way. Outages are both inconvenient and expensive to members. They also cost the co-op heavily, the amount depending upon the location of repair crews when the interruption occurs, and the time of day when they get notified of the trouble. The more time and travel it takes to get linemen to the scene, and for them to locate and correct the cause, the more it will cost to get power back on the line. Your co-op has _____ miles of lines in _____ counties. The nearest line crew may be many miles from where an outage occurs. Obviously, the prevention of outages is better than even the quickest of repair jobs after they have occurred. Collectively, our _____ members see practically all of the co-op's lines almost every day. If each member will look for possible defects along that part of the line he sees frequently, many interruptions can be prevented. When you see anything that arouses your suspicion, note the exact location and report it to the co-op promptly.

Q. HOW CAN WE RECOGNIZE DEFECTS WHEN WE SEE THEM?

A. Anything unusual in the appearance of the line may be a warning that something is amiss that will cause an outage if not corrected. Make a note of it and let us know. For instance:

Poles: A split pole, or one with a rough spot or streak on it, may have been struck by lightning. A swaying or leaning pole may have been loosened by a high wind, or it may be broken off below the surface of the ground. A burning pole is an emergency. If the fire is close to the ground where you can throw dirt on it without danger of direct contact, it may be smothered that way. Do not attempt to extinguish it with water, or to beat it out with sacks or brush held in the hands. Notify the co-op at once.

Insulators: Sometimes the flash from an arc spots a faulty insulator at night when it cannot be readily seen in daylight, but insulator damage is usually visible to the eye. A white spot on a brown insulator may be the mark of a bullet. A white streak may be caused by a shot, or by lightning. Advise the co-op when you see either. An insulator that is hanging loose, or one that is completely shattered, leaving the line dangling free, creates an urgent emergency. Notify the co-op at once.

Pole Fittings: Loose brackets that hold the lower or neutral wire or loose nuts on the brackets, loose or broken guy wires, or anything unusual about any of the pole hardware or fittings that you can see from the ground, should be noted and reported.

Wires: Leaning trees that are close enough to the lines to fall across it if blown down or felled are a menace, as is undergrowth or brush under the line that has grown too close to the (lower) wire. Any foreign material near the lines that may form a ground contact or cause a short between wires is a potential source of trouble.

Q. SHOULD MEMBERS ATTEMPT TO CORRECT THE MORE SIMPLE THINGS THEMSELVES?

A. Never. Only experienced linemen can tell whether the trouble is simple or dangerous. Make your observation from a safe distance, and from a safe spot. Do not attempt to trim or fell any tree near the line, or cut any tall brush under it. Do not attempt to remove anything that is in contact with the wires, or is close to them, either with the hands or anything held in the hands. Confine yourself to observing and reporting apparent irregularities that you see, and LET THE REPAIR JOB WAIT UNTIL EXPERIENCED LINEMEN ARE PRESENT TO DO IT THEMSELVES OR DIRECT OTHERS IN DOING IT SAFELY.

TEN WINNERS OF 4-H FROZEN FOOD
AWARDS LIVE ON REA CO-OP LINES

Ten girls from country homes served by REA-financed electric systems placed among the 31 State winners in the National 4-H Frozen Foods Contest for 1946 and two of the ten also won national honors. Each of them received a \$50 U. S. Savings Bond from the sponsor of the contest and the two national winners were given all-expense trips to the 25th 4-H Club Congress held in Chicago last December.

The contest was conducted under the direction of the Extension Service to promote greater use of frozen foods to lend variety to the family diet. The ten winners living on REA lines packaged and froze almost three tons of meat, poultry, and fish as well as nearly 2500 quarts of fruits and vegetables.

Winners of national honors were Christene Copelan, 16, of Silcam, Georgia, and Jo Ann Hemquist, 15, of Taylor Falls, Minnesota.

Christene lives with her parents on a farm in Green County, Georgia, served by the Rayle Electric Membership Corporation. She prepared and packaged 667 pounds of meats and 155 cartons of fruits and vegetables which were stored in the Copelan home freezer. This was the second year in which she prepared frozen foods, and she has given three demonstrations on the grading and freezing of eggs.

The Hemgaist home is in Chisago County, Minnesota, and is served by the East Central Electric Association. Jo Ann prepared and packaged 2,230 pounds of meats, poultry, fish, fruits and vegetables, and took part in nine-team demonstrations showing the proper way to prepare foods for freezing. She earned cash prizes of \$7 with exhibits of her home-frozen foods.

The other winners living on farms served by REA-financed systems were: Merza May Ruzsler, 17, Terre Haute, Indiana; Irene H. Bottonley, 19, White Pigeon, Michigan; Pelletia Fae Albrecht, 16, Jerico Springs, Missouri; Dorothy Johnson, 21, David City, Nebraska; Norma Jeanne Hill, 15, North Dakota; Barbara Bloom, 16, Eugene, Oregon; Vera Lee Unruh, 16, Bucklin, Kansas; and Celia M. Pellet, 17, Richland, Wisconsin.

IF YOU NEED A NEW KITCHEN RANGE
INVESTIGATE BEFORE YOU INVEST

The kitchen range is the most important appliance in the main work room of the home. If you need a new one, study all available types closely and select the one you think will give the greatest measure of care-free service and comfort at reasonable cost.

Look for a range that will require the least personal attention; that will concentrate heat at the burners without wasteful diffusion; that will be safe to leave untended; that will create a minimum of dirt to blacken utensils, walls and draperies; and that will operate at low cost.

Electric range users advise us that they receive this kind of service. You undoubtedly know some housewives who have been cooking with electricity long enough to speak with authority. We have mentioned many of them in this newsletter. Ask them if they like it and, if so, why. The new electric models, now reaching the market in increasing numbers, merit your consideration. You will find that they embody all of the advantages of previous models, plus many improvements.

Electric ranges operate economically. An Ohio co-op last year completed a 7-year test with a testmeter installed on a member's range. The cost of cooking for this family of three during the test period averaged slightly more than one cent a meal per person.

You can easily find out what it will cost to cook with electricity locally. Our minimum charge is \$___ for ___ kilowatt hours, or ___¢ per KWH. Most consumers use more than the minimum for lighting and miscellaneous household appliances. Electricity for cooking usually comes in the cheaper rate-block costing ___¢ per KWH. A family of two uses about 68 KWH monthly for cooking. Each added person, up to six, will increase consumption about 15 KWH. Using the number in your family as a base, you can easily estimate about how many KWH a range will use in your kitchen. Apply this number to the co-op rate to get the approximate monthly cost. If your family is larger than six, consult us and we will help you work out an accurate estimate.

PRODUCTION OF SMALL ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES IS GAINING ON DEMAND

According to the Wall Street Journal of January 2, production of vacuum cleaners, iron, toasters, heaters, roasters, table radios and a few other small electrical appliances has practically overtaken the market, while the demand for heavier equipment, including industrial apparatus, refrigerators, washing machines, ranges, console model radios and many other items continues to greatly exceed productive capacity.

The Journal says that as 1946 ended, dealer reports to manufacturers indicated that the smaller items listed were remaining on retail shelves for increasingly longer periods and the industry anticipates that an old-fashioned selling campaign will have to be inaugurated in 1947 to keep these items moving.

On the other hand, producers continue to be far behind with their orders on heavier equipment, including both industrial machinery and the more important household and farm appliances. The report lists one large company with an order back-log of approximately \$1,000,000,000 another with about \$600,000,000 and other manufacturers in a similar position in varying degree. Present demands for heavy apparatus--turbines; generators, motors--will keep manufacturers operating at capacity during 1947, and major appliance demand is almost as good. Barring unexpected interruptions, the industry is expecting the biggest peacetime volume in its history, with the major companies more than doubling their 1940 production.

POULTRY RAISERS LIKE TO MAKE THEIR OWN ELECTRIC BROODERS

If you are interested in building your own lamp-type electric chick brooder, your co-op will be pleased to supply you with a copy of REA's leaflet describing this appliance and giving the details on how to build one at home.

Materials needed for construction are in much better supply now than they were a year or so ago and persons who like to "build their own" are finding it easier to obtain the specified parts, or satisfactory substitutes.

The continued popularity of these home-made brooders was demonstrated recently when a single broadcast from radio station WHAS at Louisville, Kentucky, brought about 300 requests for this leaflet from listeners in several states, some of the requests coming from as far away as Florida.

SOME GOOD EXAMPLES OF NEWSLETTER ITEMS

"The most interesting new electric appliance we have had reported recently is the walk-in freezer Ernest Hibbing, Caledonia, has made for his home. Mr. Gibbing says that it keeps their meat and vegetables in far better condition than the lockers in town do. Frozen fruits are a delight to taste. He made the box six feet high, by five feet by four feet, or 120 cubic foot capacity, in the basement of his home. Martin DeYound, of Pringhar, installed the one-half horse motor and the compressor for him. The box is insulated with fibreglass. It uses approximately 150 KWH per month." Newsletter of the O'Brien County Rural Electric Cooperative, Pringhar, Iowa.

"Mr. F. T. Hood, Rt. 1, Arcadia, has completed the installation of a new quick-freeze unit in his residence, which will hold 1,000 pounds of quick frozen foods." ***** "Mr. D. W. Cox, Rt. 1, Homer, has completed the installation of a modern dairy with all the necessary equipment such as coolers, pumps, hot water and other facilities to meet Class A Standards. This equipment is all operated electrically." The same column listed four members who have recently completed new homes and moved into them. Newsletter of the Claiborne Electric Co-op, Inc., Homer, Louisiana.

